

## Message Text

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63

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 SS-20 NSC-07 SP-03

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R 081420Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4526

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DEPT: PLEASE PASS TO AMBASSADOR EDWIN M. MARTIN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT VE

SUBJECT: NEW MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE TAKES OFFICE

REF: CARACAS 6168

1. DR. LUIS JOSE OROPEZA TOOK OATH OF OFFICE ON JULY 6 AS MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK, REPLACING MINISTER ALVAREZ YEPEZ. NEW MINISTER, WHO IS 37 YEARS OLD, HAS RESIGNED HIS POSITION AS PRESIDENT OF BANK OF AGRICULTURAL AND LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT TO ASSUME THE CABINET POST.

2. OROPEZA WAS BORN IN CARORA, LARA STATE. HE RECEIVED A LAW DEGREE FROM CENTRAL UNIVERSITY IN 1961 AND PRACTICED LAW FOR FIVE YEARS IN LARA REPRESENTING THE REGIONAL CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION. AFTER STUDYING ECONOMICS IN LONDON, HE EARNED A DEGREE IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION FROM EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY AND A MASTER'S DEGREE IN BANKING AND FINANCE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN. HE HAS SERVED AS PRESIDENT OF THE BANK OF LARA, OF THE SOCIEDAD FINANCIERA DE LARA, AND OF SEGUROS LARA. HE IS A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL BANKING COUNCIL AND VICE PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL BANKING ASSOCIATION. IN ASSUMING OFFICE OROPEZA REPORTEDLY STATED THE CRITICAL STATE OF THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR REQUIRES

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AUDACIOUS PROGRAMS TO RESCUE RURAL LIFE.

3. COMMENT: OROPEZA HAS A REPUTATION AS A FORCEFUL PERSONALITY WHO IS ABLE TO GET A JOB DONE. THIS IS PROBABLY THE REASON HE WAS SELECTED TO REPLACE THE FORMER MINISTER, ALVAREZ YEPEZ, WHO HAD FAILED TO DEMONSTRATE THIS QUALITY.  
MCCLINTOCK

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AGRICULTURE, BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS, MINISTERS (DIPLOMATS), SPEECHES, AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS  
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**Draft Date:** 08 JUL 1974  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** NEW MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE TAKES OFFICE  
**TAGS:** PINT, VE, (OROPEZA, LUIS JOSE)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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